

INCOMING TELEGRAM

## Department of State

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Action

Control: 11722

NEA

Rec'd: October 19, 1959

Info

8:13 a.m.

SS

FROM: Khorramshahr

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TO: Secretary of State

SP

NO: 16, October 18, noon

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SENT PRIORITY TEHRAN 94, REPEATED INFORMATION DEPARTMENT 16,  
BAGHDAD 11, BASRA UNNUMBERED, LONDON 4

Copy pouched Basra this station

Re Tehran's 102 to Khorramshahr

Shahin is not correct in his statement re "custom and usage" applied to all ships of less than 500 tons net. Four American flag western geophysical seismographic boats of approximately 125 tons net have carried pilots since pilot licenses issued their masters revoked by Basra Port Authority last January without explanation. Innumerable British flag tugs, other river craft all take pilots unless their masters licensed as pilots by BPA. Latter's practice hold examinations for pilot licenses such masters suspended about one year ago.

Shahin's statement, however, appears correct if applied only to Iran flagships, although should emphasize as far as can ascertain here, no authority exempt Iran ships in BPA regulations and bypass. Examples such tacit exemption: Iran tanker GOLESTAN which does not take pilot, Iran coasters PERCEPOLIS and PARS which operate without pilots, NIOC and IORC Iran flag tugs whose masters hold only licenses issued by Khorramshahr Port Directorate and which do not take pilots.

MAIGU ships poor examples since I understand Iraq is protesting their failure take pilots and pay river dues.

Can therefore be argued Iraqis discriminating against IPAC since other Iran flagships of same or greater tonnage allowed by NPA operate without pilots.

However, this argument has no bearing on IPAC could

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-2-16, October 18, noon, from Khorramshahr

result in more rigid application BPA regulations and requirement all ships including Iran carry BPA licensed pilots.

FYI: Part III Article 1 Basra Port Regulations and Bylaws states "pilotage is compulsory for every seagoing vessel navigating within Port of Basra except ships belonging to the Government of Iran and Her British Majesty, sailing craft and certain tugs and lightering vessels the masters of which have obtained special pilots licenses". Port of Basra defined as "Shatt Al Arab from the upper river limit at Nahr Umar (north of Basra) to the sea".

BOWIE

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